



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Minutes 12/12/2012

Arlington Tree Committee
Minutes of December 12, 2012
7:30 PM

Present: Mary Ellen Aronow, Elizabeth Pilcher, Susan Stamps, Eliza Burden, Sally Naish, Brian Murray, Patti Muldoon, Patrice Robertie, Ed Trembly

ITEM 1. Opening discussion: Open meeting law with new members.

ITEM 2. New Members

- Introductions. (Elizabeth Pilcher, Susan Stamps, Patrice Robertie, Brian Murray).
- Quorum. Sally proposed we adopt a quorum of 6. Passed unanimously.

ITEM 3. Vision 2020 survey. Though Sally tried to include a Tree Committee question in the Vision 202 survey, there was not enough room. There was discussion about the wording of the statement. Sally will look into putting our survey question on the ATC website.

ITEM 4. Discount Tree Program. Eliza reviewed the tree planting history: Town plants some, and Tree Committee plants some, using the Trees Please Fund. Year 1 we planted 40 trees, Town planted none; Year 2 we planted 15 trees, Town planted 70. Jim Dodge, the Tree Warden, orders the trees and we plant them. She also reviewed the possibility of a homeowner discount program. Discussion: Talked about the scope of the spring planting and the Tree Committee's role; the difference between Town-planted and Tree Committee-planted trees. It was noted that in year 1, Tree Committee screened homeowners for involvement in planting and care of trees. This helped in getting homeowners invested in the success of the trees. The process that we have undertaken over the past two years is very time consuming and results in good outreach with the town but doesn't necessarily result in many trees being planted. There is interest in getting more trees in the ground. How shall we do this? Need to do more promotion of the program. Ed offered to write a letter to the editor to encourage people to make tree requests on the Request/Answer center. A Tree Planting subcommittee was formed: Eliza Burden, Mary Ellen Aronow, and Ed Trembly

ITEM 5.

- Off Berm Planting: No warrant article required, per Juliana Rice, Town Counsel. Discussion: Lexington warrants a tree for one year. After one year, tree becomes property of homeowner. This raises two questions: How can the town warrant a tree? Who owns the tree? Susan Stamps brought copies of MGL 87: Shade Trees. State law allows public money for trees on private land within 20' of a public way. It remains a public tree. Permission of the Tree Warden is required to remove it. Sub committee formed to come up with the wording and implementation of on and off berm tree policy: Susan Stamps, Patti Muldoon
- Trees under wires: DPW director, Mike Rademacher would endorse a well worded policy on tree species under wires. The NStar website has a link to the Arbor Day website for under wire trees selection. Sally Naish and Brian Murray will come up with a list of appropriate trees for planting under wires.

ITEM 6. Ecofest: Scheduled for March 23. Theme is EcoFootprints: Arlington's People, Places, Spaces. Sub committee formed: Elizabeth Pilcher

ITEM 7. Tree Inventory. Mike Rademacher is reluctant to pursue this until there is a system in place for keeping it up to date. Elizabeth Pilcher willing to work on this when time comes.

ITEM 8. Trees Report. Not discussed due to insufficient time.

ITEM 9. Other Business.

- Trees Please Fund: Donate through DPW or Treasurer's office
- Contact with the Master Planning committee. Susan Stamps will contact Master Planning Committee. Brian Murray willing to go to the meetings.

Tree Committee adjourned around 9:00 PM

Next meeting: January 9, 2013 (The Mayan's didn't get us)